

# **All Hands HERALD**

July 2008

DEPARTMENT OF FIRE SERVICES • STOW, MASSACHUSETTS

***HAZMAT***

***CPSC RECALLS***

***PUBLIC EDUCATION***

***FIRE INVESTIGATION UNIT***

***CODE COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT***

***MASSACHUSETTS FIREFIGHTING ACADEMY***



## Featured Articles

From the Fire Marshal .....	1
DFS Conference: Meeting the Challenges of Tomorrow's Fire Service .....	1
<b>HazMat.....</b>	<b>2</b>
17 <sup>th</sup> Annual Hazardous Materials Training Conference .....	2
DFS Construction Project Update: We've Temporarily Moved .....	3
<b>Fire Investigation Unit.....</b>	<b>4</b>
Cigarette Fire Investigation Checklist and MFIRS .....	4
Fireworks Being Manufactured in Plymouth Home .....	4
Man Indicted for Throwing Molotov Cocktail in Holbrook .....	6
Handling Press Inquiries on Smoking Fires.....	7
<b>Massachusetts Firefighting Academy .....</b>	<b>9</b>
Certification Has An Anniversary .....	9
Chief Fire Officer Program.....	9
Water Rescue .....	10
<b>Public Education .....</b>	<b>11</b>
Student Awareness of Fire Education Program.....	11
You Tube Contest .....	11
14 <sup>th</sup> MA Public Fire and Life Safety Education Conference .....	11
Juvenile Firesetting Conference During Arson Awareness Week .....	14
Women in the Fire Service .....	15
<b>Code Compliance &amp; Enforcement.....</b>	<b>17</b>
Temporary Housing at Traveling Carnivals.....	17
Tank Truck Approval Permits Expire August 31, 2008.....	18
Major Changes to 527 CMR 9 – Above & Underground Storage Tanks .....	19
<b>Plans Review Desk.....</b>	<b>21</b>
One- and Two-Family Home Plan Review.....	21
<b>MFIRS Corner.....</b>	<b>22</b>
MFIRS V5 Coding Tips .....	22
Upcoming MFIRS Classes .....	22
2007 Fire Statistics – A Sneak Peek .....	23
<b>CPSC.....</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Licensing Exams .....</b>	<b>25</b>
2008 License Examination Schedule .....	25
Status Report of Compliance and Enforcement Actions.....	25
<b>Graduations .....</b>	<b>26</b>

## About the *All Hands Herald*

**T**he *All Hands Herald* is published quarterly by the Department of Fire Services in January, April, July and October. The newsletter is meant to incorporate the traditional fire service meaning- all hands working to extinguish the fire. In the case of our newsletter, all hands includes the DFS staff providing each of you with information, training and assistance in dealing with the fire service issues which confront all levels of the fire service.

We hope that you enjoy our new look and feel and we encourage you to let us know how you like the All Hands Herald and what we can do to make it even more useful to you – our dedicated fire service members and customers. If you have suggestions, ideas, questions or want to make a contribution to the All Hands Herald, contact Jennifer Mieth at 978-567- 3381 or Donna Nelson at 978-567-3149. [Jennifer.Mieth@state.ma.us](mailto:Jennifer.Mieth@state.ma.us) or [Donna.Nelson@dfs.state.ma.us](mailto:Donna.Nelson@dfs.state.ma.us)

Barry Hyvarinen is the talented contributing photographer; Judy O'Brien is the keen-eyed copy editor; and Jeff Harris is the graphic artist who pulls it all together. ♦



## From the Fire Marshal



Photo by: Barry Hyvarinen

### New Laws Paying Dividends

Many of our new laws are paying dividends for the life safety of our residents. There have already been entertainment venues protected from fire by the sprinklers were required to be installed as part of the MA Fire Safety Act of 2004. We have seen several "success stories" as a result of Nicole's Law that required the installation of carbon monoxide alarms in homes. Some of these success stories involve high readings of carbon monoxide, usually as a result of a sudden failure of an appliance, but the most important ones have been small levels of carbon monoxide from slow leaks from equipment that needed maintenance. Detecting these slightly elevated levels meant that families were alerted at the earliest possible moment and potentially saved months of long-term low level exposure to unhealthy levels of carbon monoxide. Before the law, they might have just thought they were feeling poorly, and never realized they were being poisoned. We hope that the recently enacted fire standard compliant cigarette law will soon yield similar results. We know there is no such thing as a fire safe cigarette, and just as seat belts do not stop all deaths in automobile crashes, the FSC cigarette will not stop every cigarette caused fire. However, we do expect that the number of fire deaths from cigarettes igniting mattresses and upholstered furniture will begin to drop. Massachusetts was recently the host state for a meeting of staff from all the states that have passed fire standard compliant cigarettes laws. The Harvard School of Public Health and the Coalition for Fire-Safe Cigarettes at the National Fire Protection Association sponsored the meeting where states discussed implementation and evaluation strategies.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

The construction at the DFS, so many years in the planning, has finally hit the campus full force. We are starting to see the shape of the new facility as the new warehouse building nears completion and the temporary buildings that served us so long disappear. The construction phase is always a difficult one as anyone who has ever remodeled his or her home knows. We appreciate the patience of students, staff and guests because the end result will be an excellent facility for the fire service and the public we serve.

### FY '09 Budget

At this writing the state budget is working its way through the legislative process and the final results are unknown. One thing that is certain is that Governor Patrick was the first governor to ever put the Student Awareness of Fire Education or S.A.F.E. Program in his or her budget in fourteen years. S.A.F.E. is in both the House and Senate budgets, and the fire service appreciates this support for one of its most effective programs, and for understanding prevention is not a single act, but a continuous process and a change in how we live.

## DFS Conference: Meeting the Challenges of Tomorrow's Fire Service

The Department of Fire Services is planning its first annual conference for November 12-14, 2008 at the Westford Regency Conference Center in Westford, MA. The mission of this conference is to provide information to the various disciplines within the emergency response community. Significant effort has gone into securing speakers with nationally recognized credentials and expertise to present topics that are current and relevant to the Massachusetts fire service.

The conference will start with Dr. Denis Onieal, Superintendent of the National Fire Academy, as the keynote speaker. His presentation will be *The Future of Fire Service Delivery*, demonstrating the challenging new service demands we will face.

The luncheon speaker on day one will be Art Cleaves, Administrator of FEMA Region I. He will be speaking on the role of FEMA in the evolution of these new demands for service.

Over the three days of the conference there are several themes. They include leadership, safety, prevention, investigation, suppression, and hazardous materials/WMD. We are fortunate to have Chief Billy Goldfeder of Loveland-Symmes Fire Department for two days to present several of his hard-hitting talks on responder safety and accident prevention.

Our goal is to make the information timely and relevant. To that end we will have Chief Peter Takvorian of the Lawrence Fire Department presenting on January's major city block fire, Chief Ronayne of the Canton Fire Department presenting on the rail accident and mass casualty incident, Chief Don Hayde of FDNY Special Operations presenting on the Manhattan Crane Collapse, Battalion Chief Ron Moore, Firehouse Columnist on Air Bag Safety, Battalion Chief Mark Emery, Firehouse Columnist on *The 10 Command-*

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



## From the Fire Marshal

Continued from Page 2

### Juvenile Firesetting

This May, the Department of Fire Services co-hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual *Northeast Juvenile Firesetting Conference: Pathways to Collaboration & Intervention* with the Mass. Property Insurance Underwriting Association, the Massachusetts Association of Safety and Fire Educators (MA SAFE) and the Brandon School of Natick, MA. Over 200 professionals and agencies from across New England and New York met to learn more about the juvenile firesetting issue and to determine how to address it. Addressing this complex issue does require some very unique collaboration. No one agency has the mandate or the resources to solve this problem on its own. It is important that at the highest levels of state government we show the necessary leadership in just such collaboration to work together to solve a common problem.

We must develop a statewide strategic plan that not only supports and coordinates the existing juvenile firesetting intervention programs, but creates a coherent system to provide uniform services to every juvenile firesetter anywhere in the state. The new Commissioner of Social Services, Angelo McLain, Attorney General Martha Coakley and I, met recently. We are committed to creating such a statewide strategic plan within the next year and are actively seeking the requisite funding to support that initiative.

### CSB Issues Final Report on Danvers Explosion

It was a pleasure to participate in the Chemical Safety Board's (CSB) public meeting to release their final report into the November 22, 2006 Danvers explosion. I am pleased that two independent investigations agree on the cause of the explosion and fire, the need for legislation and further regulations on chemical process safety, and the importance of increased inspection and enforcement to protect the public and the regulated community. We look forward to continuing the exchange of ideas with and guidance from the

CSB. We have already filed comprehensive chemical process safety legislation that provides for a user's certificate for facilities using highly hazardous chemicals that can be taken away for non-compliance, authorizes fire prevention regulations, and puts technical expertise in the Office of the State Fire Marshal to help communities ensure chemical process safety.

### Fire Chiefs' Association of Massachusetts

I would like to welcome Worcester Fire Chief Gerry Dio to the presidency of the Fire Chiefs' Association of MA (FCAM). I would like to offer my heart-felt thanks to Concord Fire Chief Ken Willette as he steps down as president for his service, his partnership and support of DFS and his leadership on several major fire service initiatives. ♦

## Propane Cylinders Used to Make Meth

For those of you who like to grill it up during the summer, here's a safety announcement you need keep on your front burner. Please share this information with your coworkers, family, and friends. Even if you do not use and exchange a propane tank, send this out for those that do. This is something you definitely need to be aware of. Meth cooks are getting the propane tanks from the exchanges at Wal-Mart, Kroger, etc. and emptying them of the propane. Then, they are filling them with anhydrous ammonia. After they are finished using the tanks, they return them to the store. The tanks are then refilled with propane and sent back for you and me to buy. Anhydrous ammonia is very corrosive and weakens the structure of the tank. It can be very dangerous when mixed with propane and hooked up to our grills, etc. You should inspect the propane tank for any blue or greenish residue around the valve areas. If it is present, refuse to purchase that one. Here's the NPGA Site for your review also. They have pictures. <http://www.npga.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=529> ♦

# HazMAT

## 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Hazardous Materials Training Conference

The Massachusetts Association of Hazardous Materials Technicians (MAHMT), in partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 1 Boston will be holding this year's annual hazardous materials training conference at the Radisson Hotel Plymouth Harbor, 180 Water Street in Plymouth from September 17 – 19. A special hotel rate has been announced for those interested in staying in the Plymouth area.

The event is being sponsored by MAHMT, the Mass. Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), the Department of Fire Services' Hazardous Materials Response Division and the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The 2008 conference has been expanded to three days to provide sessions in the emergency planning and preparedness areas in addition to emergency response to hazardous materials incidents.

Each of the three days will begin with a general session, to be followed by breakouts of various lengths (from 90 minute up to four hours in length depending on the topic). Lunch and breaks are to be included. Sessions under development include: CAMEO, ALOHA and Marplot using the mobile computer simulator; the CSX training train; chemistry; radiation response; response to incidents & facilities involving Anhydrous Ammonia, and much, much more. An assortment of training specifically for local and regional emergency planning committees, first responders, and local government officials is also under development. The final schedule will be announced shortly. ♦



# DFS Construction Project Update: We've Temporarily Moved

All DFS staff moved out of Buildings 2 and 4 as well as the Engineering garage and work areas as of May 16 as part of the phased DFS facility construction project. DFS staff moved to either the first floor of the main building or to one of the temporary trailers located along State Road. The chart in the lower right lists the new locations of all DFS divisions and departments.

All of these moves took place prior to the demolition of Buildings 2 and 4 the last two weeks of May. This accelerated demolition schedule will allow for the general contractor, Consigli Construction, to do vital site-wide utility work. In addition, they will be able to start the footings for the new DFS administration building, the fire station, and part of the link building, all currently scheduled for a late summer 2009 completion date.

The new DFS storage building, meanwhile, is on schedule for a fall 2008 completion and occupancy deadline. All exterior walls were completed by the second week in May, followed by the completion of the roofing system. Currently, the interior work is progressing, such as the installation and testing of the electrical, plumbing, fire protection and HVAC systems. The remainder of the summer will be spent finishing up the interior storage areas with the installation of a steel shelving systems and the completion of the new print shop, mail room, welding and carpentry workshops.

Work is also continuing on the new Title 5 septic systems and the upper parking lot. Due to additional ledge discovered in the area, the septic



Former Building 2 Residents

Photo by: Donna Nelson

## DFS DEPARTMENT/DIVISION

Engineering Offices

Public Education & Public Information

Office of the State Fire Marshal/  
Code Enforcement Main Building,  
Fiscal Department

Facilities Office

Human Resources

## DFS DEPARTMENT/DIVISION & MEETING SPACE

Hazardous Materials Division

Information Technology

Recruit Classrooms  
(combination of Rooms 111 and 128)  
Room 109

Fire & Explosion Investigation Unit

Rooms 501 and 502

## LOCATION IN THE DFS MAIN BUILDING

Main building, basement and work area near the gas school

Main building, 1st floor, next to staircase (formerly Room 128)

1st floor (formerly the Media Library & Room 111)

Main building, 1st floor (formerly Room 109)

Main building, 1st floor, next to Reception area (same location)

Main building, 2nd Floor (formerly the break room)

## NEW LOCATION IN TRAILERS IN FRONT OF THE MAIN BUILDING (ALONG STATE RD.)

Trailer 1, right next to main entrance, first entrance

Trailer 1, right next to main entrance, second entrance

Trailer 2, second trailer from the main entrance

Trailer 3, third trailer from the main entrance, across from traffic circle

Trailer 4 in front of main building, directly across from traffic circle

Trailer 5, red trailer, furthest away from main entrance, at corner of main building parking lot

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



## Cigarette Fire Investigation Checklist and MFIRS



**O**n January 1, 2008, Fire Standard Compliant (FSC) cigarettes became the law in Massachusetts. To track compliance and to see if these new types of cigarettes are reducing the number of smoking fires and fire deaths, the State Fire Marshal is asking the heads of all local fire departments to make it department policy to determine, whenever possible, if cigarettes involved in fires were or were not fire standard compliant. The Marshal has also tasked the state police commander of the Fire Investigation Unit attached to the Office of the State Fire Marshal to make it unit policy. This information is considered to be most probable based on the initial results of the investigation. This checklist is in addition to and not a replacement for a fire department's mandatory reporting of fires via the Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System (MFIRS).

The information acquired from these investigations will be entered into a database and when linked to MFIRS will become a powerful new tool in the fire prevention arsenal. The data would be available to local heads of fire departments upon request.

To help DFS in this endeavor, the agency is requesting that a completed checklist be sent to the Fire Data & Public Education Unit at the Office of the State Fire Marshal any time a fire that the investigation determines was started by a cigarette.

If you have any questions about reporting these fires, please contact Derryl Dion, the Research Analyst and MFIRS Manager at 978-567-3382 or [Derryl.Dion@state.ma.us](mailto:Derryl.Dion@state.ma.us). ♦

## Fireworks Being Manufactured in Plymouth Home

**S**tate Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan, Glenn N. Anderson, Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives, and Plymouth Fire Chief G. Edward Bradley said a joint investigation led to the discovery of a fireworks manufacturing facility in a Plymouth home.

Seized from the home of Robert Rinaldi at 215 Sandy Pond Road on April 7, 2008, were six improvised explosive devices, a box truck full of homemade fireworks, a quantity of black powder, chemicals and equipment used in the manufacture of fireworks.

The State Police Hazardous Devices Unit in the Office of the State Fire Marshal was called to assist in handling and safely removing the explo-

sives, and rendering the explosive devices safe.

The scene was a low-level hazardous materials response for the fire department, which activated the district one Hazardous Materials Response Team. The Department of Environmental Protection and Clean Harbors assisted in safely removing the large quantity of chemicals.

The case is being jointly investigated by state police assigned to the Fire Investigation Unit in the Office of the State Fire Marshal, the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives – Boston Field Division, and the Plymouth Fire Department. The State Police Truck Team provided assistance in the investigation.

## Northborough Strip Mall Fire Called Arson

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan, Northborough Fire Chief David M. Durgin, Northborough Police Chief Mark K. Leahy, and Glenn N. Anderson, Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives, announced the most probable cause of the March 25, 2008 fire at the Northborough Shopping Center is arson. The fire started around 3 a.m. at a strip mall located at 243 West Main Street, Northborough and destroyed five businesses: O'Brien's 5 and 10, Brown's TV and Appliance, Northborough Desi Supermarket, Garabedian Jeweler's and Queen Bead and Gifts.

Marshal Coan said, "As the investigation moves from the cause and origin phase to the criminal phase, we ask members of the public to please call the arson hotline at 1-800-682-9229 if they saw or heard anything around the time of the fire, or since the fire, that could help." The Arson Hotline is part of the Arson Watch Reward Program sponsored by the MA Property Insurance Underwriting Association. He added, "The Arson Watch Reward Program provides rewards of up to \$5,000 for information that helps to solve an arson fire. Many cases are solved by a lead or tip that comes from the community itself."

Chief Durgin said, "Arson is not a victimless crime as it impacts the entire community." He added, "It is quite a blow to this town to lose five small businesses during these tough economic times. These businesses contributed to the economic health and vitality of our community."

The fire is being jointly investigated by the Northborough Fire Department, Northborough Police Department, state police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal and the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Boston Field Division. ♦

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



# 5 Arrested in Hyannis Fire – Attempted Murder of 3 Children

Cape and Islands District Attorney Michael O’Keefe, State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan, Hyannis Fire Chief Harold S. Brunelle and Barnstable Police Chief Paul McDonald announced that five people have been charged in the April 4, 2008 early morning fire at 50 Hirimar Road in Hyannis.

The five are: Joshua Debonise, age 19 of Hyannis; Tiffany Mason, age 20 of Hyannis; Andrew Nickerson, age 19 of Mashpee; Victor Mason, age 20 of East Boston; and Jose Reyes, age 22 of Fitchburg. All five were charged with arson of a dwelling and attempted murder. Jose Reyes was also charged with possession of an infernal machine.

The State Fire Marshal said, “Great police work by the Barnstable Police, state police in the Office of the State Fire Marshal and the state police at the Medford barracks led to the apprehension of these suspects.”

At 2:10 p.m. April 4, a state police trooper observed a gray 1999 Pontiac Grand Prix commit a marked lanes violation and cut off other cars on Route 99 in Malden. Trooper Montina stopped the car just north of Salem Street and observed the driver, Andrew Nickerson, and the

passenger, Joshua Debonise, acting nervously, moving around in the car and looking in all directions. Further investigation by state police revealed that the suspects’ Grand Prix was being sought by state police in the Office of the State Fire Marshal in connection with the Hyannis fire. Troopers removed the suspects from the car and recovered a large knife from the vehicle. One of the men had a key to an area motel room, and further investigation revealed that other suspects might be in that room. Nickerson and Debonise were taken into custody.

State troopers began an investigation to find out which motel had issued the key, which led them to the Colonial Traveler Motor Court on Route 99 in Saugus. They determined that three additional suspects were at the motel, two of whom fled into the woods behind the motel as troopers approached. During the foot chase into the woods that ensued, State Police K9 Unit Trooper John Fallon and his German shepherd,

“Richter,” tracked and apprehended Jose Reyes. Then the K9 Unit returned to the woods and “Richter” picked up the scent of the second fleeing suspect, Victor Mason. The dog led troopers to Mason, who was also taken into custody.

State Troopers Michael Peters and Steven Cunningham from the Office of the State Fire Marshal responded to the Medford barracks and questioned the suspects in the on-going investigation.

Chief Brunelle said, “It is so fortunate that no one was hurt and everyone escaped safely. This could so easily have been a multiple death fire with three children sleeping in the room where the fire started.”

The fire was jointly investigated by the Hyannis Fire Department, the Barnstable Police Department and state police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal. The Cape and Islands District Attorney’s Office is prosecuting the case. ♦

## Fireworks in Plymouth

*Continued from Page 4*

A criminal complaint has been issued to Mr. Rinaldi with six counts of possession of an infernal machine and one count of manufacture and storage of explosives without a license.

News reports reminded the public that Mr. Rinaldi had been seriously burned in a new Year’s Day 1991 fireworks manufacturing incident at his Plymouth home. In that incident, the explosion shot him into the pond behind his home and burned him over 80% of his body, according to news reports. The Rinaldi home was previously raided on July 6, 1990 and Rinaldi and his parents plead guilty to storing and selling fireworks. ♦

## Swampscott Boy Injured Making Fireworks

On April 26, 2008 an explosion shook Swampscott’s Melvin Street neighborhood setting off car alarms and summoning police. The source of the explosion was not discovered until May 1, 2008 when around 5 p.m. a 13-year old boy detonated an explosion in his kitchen that amputated the tips of two fingers. He was making improvised explosive devices (IED’s) including homemade fireworks. The youth indicated he has previously made and detonated more than 20 IED’s including one on April 26. He also indicated that he used materials purchased at a local convenience store. The juvenile will be summonsed to court to face charges of possession of an infernal machine and throwing or placing an improvised explosive device.

### **Charges Against Store Illegally Selling Materials**

A criminal complaint was sought against the owner of Dee’s Corner Convenience Store in Lynn for selling fireworks to the 13-year old Swampscott boy. The boy apparently purchased sufficient quantity of “poppers” to remix the powder into his own homemade fireworks and explosive devices. The possession of all fireworks except by licensed professionals is illegal in Massachusetts and that includes so-called “poppers”. The storeowner is charged with the illegal possession and sale of fireworks. This incident is being investigated by members of the Swampscott Police and Fire Departments and state police assigned to the State Fire Marshal’s North Team and the bomb squad. ♦



## Framingham High Rise Fire Touched Off by Plumber's Torch

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan and Framingham Fire Chief Ollie Gadson said on April 15, 2008 that their departments' joint investigation into the April 11 high rise fire at 14 Temple St. in Framingham was accidentally caused by a plumber's torch on the building's second floor.

State police Investigators assigned to the State Fire Marshal's office in coordination with members of Framingham's Fire Department and Police Department concluded that the fire started adjacent to the internal plumbing chase in a bathroom area closest to Room 206. It is believed that a torch used by the plumber accidentally touched the lining in the chase, which caused a smoldering fire that eventually erupted into open flames.

The incident occurred on Friday, April 11, 2008 at 12:21 pm. The three-alarm fire heavily damaged the six-story apartment building and injured 12 firefighters. Eight of these firefighters were transported to local hospitals, held for observation and later released.

Firefighters from Natick and Ashland also responded to the fire and took 3 ½ hours to knock it down, according to the Framingham Fire Department.

"The extent of this fire once again demonstrated the effectiveness of the local and regional mutual aid system," said State Fire Marshal Stephen Coan.

Chief Gadson set the damage estimate for the 72 apartments at \$3 million. ♦

## Man Indicted for Throwing Molotov Cocktail in Holbrook

On Thursday, January 3, 2008 an adult male was indicted by a Norfolk County Grand Jury for possession of Molotov cocktails and attempting to burn a dwelling. The charges stem from a fire at 247 Center Street in Holbrook started with a Molotov cocktail on November 27, 2007. The fire was investigated by members of the Holbrook Fire and Police Departments and state police assigned to the Fire Investigation Unit's South Team.

This was the second fire incident targeting this family. Gasoline was poured on the home's foundation and ignited with a "trailer" running down the driveway. A 1.5 liter bottle of gasoline and was thrown at the first floor kitchen window, hit the screen and broke the glass, but bounced off and ignited. The motive for the fire was thought to be revenge against one of the occupants who was involved in, and blamed for a fatal automobile crash. ♦

## Lawrence Arsonists Arrested

On April 1, 2008 one adult male and two juveniles were charged with throwing and placing explosives with intent to injure and possession of an infernal machine. The charges are as a result of an investigation into a Lawrence arson at 82A Maple Street on March 21, 2008. The fire was joint investigated by the Lawrence Arson Task Force that includes north team state police fire investigators. ♦

## Chelsea Arsonist Indicted

On February 29, 2008 the FIU north team was successful in securing a Suffolk Grand Jury indictment against an adult male on charges of burning a dwelling and causing injury to a firefighter. The charges stem from an investigation of an arson fire on September 20, 2007 at 70 Library St. in Chelsea. ♦

## Hanson Fire at Old Plymouth County Hospital Arson

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan and Hanson Fire Chief Jerome A. Thompson said the fire discovered still smoldering on April 10, 2008 at the Old Plymouth County Hospital at 224 High Street in Hanson was intentionally set. The fire was discovered by police officers making routine patrols this morning. It had been set sometime in the previous 18 hours, but had self-extinguished.

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***"Confidential  
Arson Hotline  
1-800-682-9229"***

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State Fire Marshal Coan said, "Fortunately no one was injured fighting this fire. Vacant building fires are extremely dangerous to firefighters because they get a head start before anyone notices it and because of the dangers posed by the interior of the structure. More firefighter injuries occur fighting fires in vacant buildings than anywhere else."

Chief Thompson said, "There have been past fires in this building. Two adults and two juveniles were arrested for setting a 2005 fire. If you have any information about this fire please call the fire department, the police department or the confidential Arson Hotline at 1-800-682-9229."

The Arson Hotline is part of the statewide Arson Watch Reward Program sponsored by the MA Property Insurances Underwriting Association. It provides rewards of up to \$5,000 to solve the crime of arson.

The fire is being jointly investigated by the Hanson Fire Department, Hanson Police Department and State Police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal. ♦

## Dryer Caused Milton Fatal Fire

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan, Milton Fire Chief Malcolm R. Larson and Police Chief Richard J. Wells Jr. announced their joint investigation into the April 14, 2008 fatal fire at 58 Sheldon Street in Milton has determined that a dryer was the most probable cause. Norfolk District Attorney William Keating's Office confirmed that Richard Shannon died in the fire. He was the only occupant in the multi-unit dwelling when the fire occurred around noontime.

Investigators believe that lint from the dryer accumulated in the long vent pipe and was eventually ignited by the heat of the dryer and then ignited structural members.

State Fire Marshal Coan said, "It is important to clean the lint filter in a clothes dryer after every load, and to vacuum the motor area and the dryer vent a few times a year in order to prevent dryer fires." According to the Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System, in 2006, there were 97 clothes dryer fires that caused one civilian fire death, two civilian injuries, two firefighter injuries, and an estimated dollar loss of \$489,922.

Chief Larson said, "This is the second fatal fire in Milton in recent months and it is a great tragedy for our community. As fire chief, I ask everyone to make sure their smoke alarms are working, hold home fire drills and to practice good fire prevention every day."

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***"...clean the lint filter after every load, and vacuum the motor area and dryer vent..."***

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The fire is being jointly investigated by the Milton Fire Department, Milton Police Department, and state police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal and to the Norfolk District Attorney's Office. ♦

## Handling Press Inquiries on Smoking Fires

Here are some tips on responding to media questions after a cigarette caused fire.

1. There is no such thing as a truly fire safe cigarette. The name may mislead the public.
2. That's why we call them fire standard compliant or FSC cigarettes.
3. The NY/NIST standard requires that in a test of 40 cigarettes, 75% do not burn completely to the filter. That means that 25%, or 10 out of every 40 tested will.
4. The standard is designed to resist ignition to upholstered furniture and mattresses, which is what is ignited in most fatal cigarette fires.
5. The FSC cigarette is not designed to resist ignition in trash, dumpster, mulch, brush or other similar types of fires. It is not designed to resist carpet ignitions either.
6. Most manufacturers are using technology called banding. This has "speed bumps" in the paper where not enough oxygen can reach the tobacco and the cigarette should go out. However, in between these bands, the cigarette burns "normally" providing a short opportunity for a fire to start.
7. This means it is likely there will be some FSC cigarette-caused fires. It is important to have the correct perspective.
8. FSC cigarettes are like seatbelts and air bags. They don't prevent every motor vehicle crash death, but they can go a long way to reducing the overall numbers. The same can be expected of FSC cigarettes.

9. It is important not jump to conclusions about the effectiveness of the standard until we have been able to collect enough data to adequately evaluate it. FSC cigarettes are not going to prevent every cigarette-fire, but the question is are they reducing those fires and deaths?
10. The State Fire Marshal is conducting a comprehensive evaluation of the standard by rigorously investigating every fire that is determined to be caused by a cigarette and has asked local fire chiefs to do the same.
11. Massachusetts expects to share its data and coordinate that evaluation with other states in order to provide NIST, who developed the standard, with information. We expect NIST to be constantly re-evaluating the standard and their testing procedures.
12. FSC cigarettes are one tool in the fight against fire. It is important to make sure smoke alarms are installed and working, home escape plans are practiced, that no smoking occurs in homes where medical oxygen is in use, and that home fire sprinklers are installed wherever possible. ♦





## DFS Construction Update

Continued from Page 3

system and parking area are now scheduled to be completed by late summer. Additional work on the water and sewer line connections will take place in the drill yard area during the summer shutdown beginning June 23.



Photo by: Michele Vincequere

Anyone planning on coming to DFS headquarters in Stow over the next several months, should check the weekly parking status as well as the latest construction project updates on the DFS website at [www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs). Look for *Construction Updates* on the right hand column. ♦



Building 2 meets the wrecking machine and there is no contest.

Photo by: Michele Vincequere

## DFS Conference

Continued from Page 1

ments, and Lt. Ray McCormack of FDNY Ladder 28 on *The Perfect Stretch*.

On the investigation side, Lt. Robert Corry, MSP (Ret.) will do an interactive session on InterFire; representatives from the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) will discuss the Maryland serial arsonist case, and MA State Police Sgt. Paul Zipper will deliver a presentation on deception and one on juvenile firesetting.

For those interested in Hazardous Materials/WMD, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) will present on meth lab awareness, a representative from Las Vegas, NV will talk on the recent Ricin incident, and MA State Police Tpr. Eric Gahagan will give several presentations on various types of explosives.

There will be opportunities for hands-on experience. The flash-over trailer from the Massachusetts

Firefighting Academy (MFA) will be onsite for training. The computer simulator lab will be used for the InterFire class as well as two fire simulations, and Toyota will do a presentation on hybrid cars and take participants to a local dealership for a close-up look at these unique vehicles.

There will be evening programs on Wednesday (Nov. 12) and Thursday (Nov. 13). On Wednesday the practical portion of the flashover training will be held at the Westford Fire Department Training Facility. There will also be Simulation Lab training dealing with firefighting in balloon-frame construction. On Thursday evening there will be dinner and a presentation by Chief Billy Goldfeder. Chief Goldfeder is a hard-hitting speaker who has committed himself to reducing firefighter deaths and injuries.

We have a number of local experts who will present on unique and unusual topics. These include Lt. Paul

Delaney of the Wellesley Fire Department speaking on how he uses historical fires in his public education programs, and Lt. William Cannata of the Westwood Fire Department discussing how to interact with people with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

The conference planners have tried to make this conference a meaningful event for participants. There will be a number of vendors present to provide information and demonstrations of their equipment and services. There will be opportunities to speak with the nationally-known speakers one on one.

So please mark your calendar, tell your friends and co-workers, and spread the word on this event. Above all else, register and make a commitment to attend. You will find this informative and helpful as an emergency responder.

To register and for further information go online to [www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs). ♦

# MASSACHUSETTS FIREFIGHTING ACADEMY

## Certification Has An Anniversary

**O**n June 25, 1988 in a room at a school building on Horse Pond Road in Sudbury, Massachusetts, a small group of people sat for the first ProBoard accredited certification examination. Subsequently a practical exam was scheduled and by the end of 12 months, a grand total of 52 people were certified to the level of Fire Instructor I, 1987 edition of NFPA 1041.

June 25, 2008 will mark the 20th anniversary of the Massachusetts Fire Training Council's ProBoard accredited certification system. In this calendar year alone, nearly 1,500 will be certified at over a dozen levels.

The fire service of the Commonwealth has embraced the system more than ever to validate their training through testing. At first, individual firefighters came forward to challenge their knowledge and skills against the standard. Today, many departments are giving credit to those who have obtained various certifications in order to advance in their chosen field. Also, departments desire their entire staff to be certified to the level in which they are operating in the field.

As time passes, it is sometimes difficult to measure progress over days, weeks, or months. Years may pass before you can see changes from one point to the next. It has taken a lot of effort to build the system to where it is today; many thanks go to so many people who have made this system possible.

Where do we go from here? We renew our commitment to maintaining the strength and integrity of the system for the next twenty years.

Please direct questions or comments to Bob Rand, Certification Coordinator, 978-567-3223, **Robert.Rand@dfs.state.ma.us**. ♦

## Chief Fire Officer Program

by Everett G. Pierce

The *Chief Fire Officer* program will be offered again in the fall of 2008. The pilot offering in 2007 was very successful and minor changes have been made to further improve the program. It will begin on Thursday, September 4 and run for 13 weeks on Thursdays with graduation scheduled for December 11, 2008.

This course was designed to afford the participant the greatest professional development experience possible. The International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) Professional Development Handbook, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1021, Fire and Emergency Services Higher Education (FESHE), Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS), and national certification requirements were utilized to develop the course.

- The program covers all of the materials required under NFPA 1021 for Fire Officer III and Fire Officer IV. This will prepare the participant for the Fire Officer III and Fire Officer IV certification exams that may be taken after completion of this course.
- Students are required to complete and submit a research paper, which not only satisfies the requirements of University of Massachusetts (UMass) for continuing education units (CEUs), but also satisfies Training Council requirements for application for certification to Fire Officer III and Fire Officer IV.
- UMass will be offering CEUs for both undergraduate and graduate level programs. This will help those who are pursuing their professional development at the college level.
- The program has been approved by OEMS for 18 continuing education credits.
- We will use a blend of private sector subject matter experts and fire service professionals. Private sector educators will present seven of the topics, while nationally recognized fire service

professionals will present five.

- This course will be conducted at the University of Massachusetts facility at 333 South Street in Shrewsbury. This allows us the use of a state of the art training facility while providing convenient travel for the participants.

All of the above features demonstrate the commitment of the Department of Fire Services (DFS) and the University of Massachusetts to the fire service. Our goal is to deliver relevant training, presented by experts in their field and provide the participants with the most value for their time and effort. We feel this program delivers on this goal.

We will be covering a variety of topics that are pertinent to chief fire officers. They include:

- Leadership and the Chief Fire Officer
- Administrative Structures
- Basic Communication Skills
- Supervision and Management
- Logic, Ethics, and Decision Making
- Human Resource Management
- Community and Government Relations
- Administrative Programs
- Fire Prevention and Life Safety Programs
- Emergency Services Delivery
- Comprehensive Safety and Health Programs

All of the material will come from the *International Fire Service Training Association (IFSTA) Chief Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition* book that each student will be given. In addition, the participants will be required to do considerable out of class preparation in advance of each class as well as their research paper.

This is a priority selection program.

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CONTINUED ON **PAGE 10**



# Water Rescue

by Mark McCabe

## Technical Rescue Coordinator

The Technical Rescue office of the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy just completed the first two deliveries of its new Surface Water Rescue-Operational Level class. Both of these classes were conducted in moving water and all participants were in the water for most of the day. Students learned how to rescue themselves in moving water, how to throw a rope, receive a rope, go across moving water to rescue someone, how to negotiate a strainer, aggressively swim, use double line floating tethers, weighted tethers, and how to use an inflatable hose device. We have worked hard on getting the equipment, current information, latest statistics, and to develop the best practical evolutions to give the student the knowledge, skills and abilities to handle a water emergency in their community.

This water rescue operational level program has been based on the most current editions of *NFPA 1670, Standard on Operations and Training for Technical Search and Rescue Incidents*, and *NFPA 1006, Rescue Technician Professional Qualifications*.

There is a classroom portion and practical evolutions dealing with the safety equipment used in water rescue. Afterwards, students actually get in the river and perform the technical skills in a realistic environment.

When the student completes the course they will be aware of the dangers of working around water and how to operate around them safely.

They will also possess the skills reinforced in the practical evolutions to deal with water emergencies. Once put together, they will have the ability to save somebody from water safely.

If you have any questions or would be interested in hosting the water-class in the future, please call the Technical Rescue Office at 978-567-3214. ♦



Photo by: Mark McCabe

## CFO Program

Continued from Page 9

The priority will be as follows:

1. Chief Administrators/Chief of Department
2. Chief Officers
3. Acting Chief Officers
4. Company Officers

All participants must be minimum ICS 200 qualified and preferably ICS 300. A portion of the course deals with NIMS and requires a working knowledge of the National Incident

Management System.

To register for the program, interested students should complete one copy of the Chief Fire Officer Management Training Program application and attach the following:

- An organizational chart showing all department positions and indicating the applicant's position.
- A one page statement of why the applicant should be accepted into the program.

- A copy of the Pro Board and/or IFSAC Certification certificates the applicant currently holds (including ICS 200, 300).

The deadline for registering for the fall 2008 course is 5 p.m. on Friday, August 8, 2008. Any questions concerning the program or application should be directed to Mary Shutts 978-567-3205 [Mary.Shutts@state.ma.us](mailto:Mary.Shutts@state.ma.us) ♦

# PUBLIC EDUCATION

## Student Awareness of Fire Education Program

### FY '08 SAFE Grant Awards

The Fiscal Year 2008 Student Awareness of Fire Education grant awards were made in the spring of 2008. The scope of services allows communities 12 months from the receipt of the funds to spend the funds, just like the FY 2007 funds. Three fire districts received funds to replace the district fire safety house. This is the third year in a five year program to replace all fifteen fire safety houses.

### Evaluation is Key

Many of this year's grant applications were very poor on the evaluation component. The spring S.A.F.E. In-service highlighted how fire educators can perform effective evaluations with the skills and resources they have. We need to prove that public education works in many ways. The reduction in child fire deaths is one way to document the success of public fire education, but we need to go beyond that and make sure that each child is learning what we think we are teaching.

### 2007 Year End Reports

The 2007 SAFE Year-End reports are due June 30, 2008. You will be required to describe what you did, how you spent the money, and the results of your evaluation. ♦

## 14<sup>th</sup> MA Public Fire and Life Safety Education Conference

The 14th annual Massachusetts Public Fire and Life Safety Education Conference will be held on September 23-24, 2008 at the Holiday Inn, Taunton. The conference is sponsored by the Department of Fire Services



and the Massachusetts Public Fire & Life Safety Education Task Force. For registration information send an e-mail with the text "conference" in the subject line to: Jennifer.Mieth@state.ma.us and as

## YouTube Contest

Oftentimes, videos on the popular Internet video website, YouTube, display the dangerous and inappropriate uses of fire. To counteract that, the *Massachusetts Association of Fire Educators* and the state *Department of Fire Services* in conjunction with the *MA Property Insurance Underwriting Association* are sponsoring a contest for Massachusetts' high school students. For this contest, students are asked to develop a research-based video that explains the dangers of fire and ways in which individuals can prevent burn injuries. The contest is aimed at educating students on fire safety and burn prevention through their own individual group research and faculty supervised video production.

Contest rules and the evaluation rubric can be found on line at [www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs). The rubric will be used for all video submissions to determine the grand prize, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners.

### Media Literacy Part of English and Language Arts Curriculum

This contest addresses learning standard components 27.6 (Gr. 9-10) and 27.8 (Gr. 11-12) of the *Massachusetts English Language Arts Curriculum Framework* (June 2001), Media Strand-General Standard 27: Media Production. School districts offering communications classes, which include the design and creation of the media productions, are



## Broadcast Yourself™

encouraged to promote this contest through an independent or group assignment as part of its curriculum.

### Fire Educators Role in Helping Teens Make Healthy Decisions and Choices

Fire educators can play a crucial role in helping developing minds think about actions and consequences, how to make healthy decisions, and to develop media literacy around the issue of fire. These issues were discussed at the Spring SAFE In-Service training. ♦

## Electrical Safety

May was electrical safety month. The Public Education Unit published a new *FireFactors* on electrical safety this year. Copies can be obtained from the Fire Data and Public Education Unit or online at [www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs) click on *Fire Safety Topics* and *Electrical Safety*. In



### Preventing Electrical Fires at Home

addition, the National Fire Protection Association also released some excellent public education materials on electrical safety, including a low literacy piece, in both English and Spanish, that explains the whys of electrical safety in an easy to understand way with illustrations. Available for download at [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org). Look for the public education page *Keeping Your Community Safe and Energized*. ♦

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



# 2008 Remembering When™: A Fire and Fall Prevention Program for Older Adults Conference



## Remembering When™

a fire and fall prevention program for older adults

**December 3-5, 2008  
Boston, MA**

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) is committed to helping communities reduce fire and fall injuries and deaths among older adults. Since 1999, communities throughout North America have been implementing the Remembering When program, reaching thousands of older adults. To ensure that the Remembering When program is reaching the most vulnerable of older adults, NFPA will select representatives from up to 40 communities to attend the second Remembering When Conference, which will emphasize reaching older adults through home visits. For this purpose, we are asking fire departments to partner with an agency whose main outreach to older adults is through home visits. Such agencies may include visiting nurse associations, home health care agencies, church outreach groups, and other organizations.

To get a copy of the application form go to the NFPA website at [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org).



**NATIONAL FIRE  
PROTECTION ASSN.**

### **Here's what they're looking for:**

- A partnership to support the implementation of Remembering When at the local level.
- A two-person team that includes the fire department and an agency serving older adults within the community through home visits, such as visiting nurses associations, home health care agencies, places of worship, or other groups. (The partner agency must already have a home visit mechanism in place since it will conduct the home visits. After the training in Boston, the fire department will train home visitors on the Remembering When program.)
- Partners must have the authority, commitment, and ability to oversee local implementation of the Remembering When program

### **Here's what you'll receive:**

- Each Remembering When Conference Award is valued at more than \$4,000 and includes:
- A training workshop in Boston, MA, December 3-5, 2008, for each two-member team. NFPA will cover the expense of travel, hotel and group meals for each team. Attendance at all sessions is mandatory. All events and meals are funded for invited attendees only;
- One Remembering When: Fire and Falls Prevention program curriculum for each team member;
- 100 "How to Prevent Fires" brochures for distribution to older adults; and
- 100 "How to Prevent Falls" brochures for distribution to older adults.

**Trivia Question:** Your friend wants to test her smoke alarms each month, but doesn't want to fall while testing them. What do you suggest?

**Answer:** Test smoke alarms monthly by pushing the test button with a stick or broom handle.

### **Requirements for each team:**

- After the conference, each team will commit to taking what they've learned back to their community. Specifically, each team will do the following:
- The fire department will conduct a minimum of five group presentations.
- The fire department will conduct at least two train-the-trainer sessions for the partner agency home visitors.
- The home visitor agency will conduct at least 25 home visits.
- The home visitor agency will integrate agreed upon materials from the Remembering When program into their home visits.
- Each team will submit a final report to NFPA, including a summary of how the agency integrated Remembering When materials into its home visits to all older adults served.

### **Official rules**

- Applications must be typed, single-sided, and double-spaced. Submit one copy of the application no later than the close of business on August 1, 2008. The judges' decision is final and NFPA reserves the right not to grant all 40 awards.
- Applications submitted become the property of NFPA and cannot be returned.
- NFPA will notify award recipients on or before September 10, 2008.

Send the completed application to:

2008 Remembering When Award  
Attention: Lynne Winnett  
National Fire Protection Association  
1 Batterymarch Park  
Quincy, MA 02169-9101

Questions? Call Sharon Gamache, Director of High-Risk Outreach Programs, at 617-984-7286. ♦

# Campus Firewatch Media Project – involving students in fire safety

by Ed Comeau, Publisher

## **Campus Firewatch**

One of the challenges in delivering campus fire safety education to the Millennial Generation is developing material that is relevant and is delivered using methods that work with this demographic. It's no surprise that today's students get their information in an entirely different way because of the explosive growth of the Internet, cell phones, text messaging and instant messaging.

## **Study of student views and attitudes towards fire and burn safety**

In 2007, Campus Firewatch ([www.campus-firewatch.com](http://www.campus-firewatch.com)) and the People's Burn Foundation ([www.peoplesburnfoundation.org](http://www.peoplesburnfoundation.org)) teamed up to take a look at what students knew about fire and burn safety and how to deliver information to them. This involved a series of focus groups at several schools in Indiana, Connecticut and Massachusetts (Gordon College, Boston College, the University of Massachusetts). In addition, an online survey was conducted of over 500 people and a virtual-reality focus group was done using Second Life ([www.secondlife.com](http://www.secondlife.com)) which is an online, 3-D, virtual world. (The full report can be downloaded from *Campus Firewatch*.)

The results of the study in terms of what students knew about fire and burn safety were not surprising and reinforced what many campus and community fire officials had already learned. Basically, the students knowledge was limited to what they had learned in elementary school, which was often the last exposure they had to any fire safety education. For example, when asked what they would do if their dorm room was on fire, a common answer was "stop, drop and roll."

A further part of the study looked at how students get information in today's electronic age along with other research that had been conducted by *Campus Firewatch*. Obviously

the Internet is perceived as a highly effective tool in reaching out to the students, but with some significant limitations. In addition, the style in which the information is provided is key as well.

What was very interesting was student's attitudes towards fire safety. When they became aware of their knowledge gap, they wanted to know more about how to prevent a fire and what to do if one did occur. They were looking for easily-available information, almost a *one-stop-shopping* type of resource

Foundation website and a new one being developed called [www.lgot2kno.org](http://www.lgot2kno.org). These sites will serve as a vital resource for student-based fire safety information. *To Hell and Back: College Fire Survival* will be distributed in June to every fire department, college and university in the country, free of charge.

## **Campus Firewatch Media Project**

Throughout both of these projects it became apparent that there is a need for fire safety information

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***Basically, students knowledge was limited to what they had learned in elementary school which was often the last exposure they had to any fire safety education.***

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for answers to their questions and concerns.

## **To Hell and Back: College Fire Survival**

All of this information was vital in helping to develop *To Hell and Back: College Fire Survival*, which was a grant project to produce a video-based educational program. The People's Burn Foundation was awarded this DHS Fire Prevention and Safety Grant and *Campus Firewatch* was asked to head up the subject matter expert team made up of campus fire safety professionals from across the nation. The first part of the video is a fictional, yet often seen scenario, set at a party in an off-campus house that leads to the death of a student. The second part is an incredibly compelling real-world account of the path to recovery for two students from the 2000 Seton Hall University fire.

Coupled with this program will be educational material that will be available from the People's Burn

written or produced in a style that resonates with today's YouTube generation. In addition, the information has to be delivered in a way that students will watch, learn and encourage others to do the same.

To help accomplish this and to also learn more about what makes students "tick," *Campus Firewatch* has teamed up with the People's Burn Foundation and the Michael H. Minger Foundation and created the *Campus Firewatch Media Project*. This project will provide students with an opportunity to learn and write about fire safety from their perspective. Starting in September 2008, the objective is to have one article each month appear in *Campus Firewatch* written by either a high-school senior or college student focusing on fire safety. For each article accepted, the author will receive a stipend of \$500.

This is an outstanding opportunity to engage students in learning more

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CONTINUED ON **PAGE 16**



## Life Safety Conference

Continued from Page 11

soon as the conference details are finalized, the conference registration brochure will be emailed to you and posted online at [www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs) under *What's New?*

This conference is for:

- S.A.F.E. Educators
- Classroom Teachers
- Health Education Coordinators/Teachers
- Nurses
- Firefighters & Fire Officers
- EMTs
- School Administrators
- School Safety Officers
- Injury Prevention Professionals
- School Resource Officers
- Elder Service Workers

### Nominations for 2008 Fire and Life Safety Educator of the Year

Nominations are now being accepted for the *2008 Fire and Life Safety Educator of the Year Award* that will be presented at the conference. Nomination forms are available online or by contacting the Fire Data & Public Education Unit. This award is designed to recognize individuals or teams for their involvement and commitment to make our world safer from fire or other preventable injuries. Although fire and life safety education may be their job, we are looking for people who go above and beyond to make a difference. We seek to honor people who demonstrate qualities such as leadership, teamwork, creativity, vision, and perseverance. The winner's name will be inscribed on a perpetual plaque which hangs at the Department of Fire Services. The winner will be invited to participate in fire prevention activities with the State Fire Marshal, and to represent fire and life safety educators at appropriate events throughout the year.

Anyone can make a nomination and anyone except fire chiefs can be nominated. ♦

## Juvenile Firesetting Conference During Arson Awareness Week

On May 9, 2008, over 200 professionals and agencies from across New England and New York met to learn more about the juvenile firesetting issue and to collaborate on how to address it. The *2nd annual Northeast Juvenile Firesetting Conference: Pathways to Collaboration & Intervention* was jointly sponsored by the state Department of Fire Services, the MA Property Insurance Underwriting Association, the Massachusetts Association of Safety and Fire Educators (MA SAFE) and the Brandon School of Natick, MA.

### Arson Awareness Week

It is fitting that this conference was held during this year's Arson Awareness Week (May 4-10, 2008) because the U.S. Fire Administration's theme is "Toy-like Lighters – Playing with Fire". The goal was to focus public attention on the dangers of toy-like or novelty lighters in the hands of children. "A child playing with any type of lighter is a major concern," said State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan. "Adults must take responsibility for keeping all lighters and matches out of children's hands."

### Worcester District Attorney Joseph Early Jr. on Juvenile Justice's Role

"The juvenile justice system can intervene in the lives of fire-setting youths," said Worcester District Attorney Joseph D. Early, Jr. "We want to make sure they get the help they need, but we will hold youthful offenders accountable for their actions. My office's priority is always public safety."

### Dr. Jeffrey Geller Delivered Keynote Address

Dr. Jeffrey Geller, Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, delivered the keynote address and spoke on his academic studies of fire setters. Professor Geller said, "While the media is all too quick to label a fre-

quent firesetter a 'pyromaniac', most firesetters who set fires for other



Antiliano Estrella, Paul Schwartzman & Jerry Di Millo

than criminal reasons do so because

they lack the skills to communicate in more socially acceptable forms. The untold, painful, and sometimes lethal consequences of fires are more often than not the unintended consequences of an act by someone whose judgment is impaired – either acutely by alcohol, for example, or chronically by significant learning disabilities, for example."

### Juvenile Firesetting Is Public Safety Threat Without Proper Response

State Fire Marshal, Stephen Coan, speaking during the luncheon said, "Juvenile firesetting is a serious public safety threat without the proper response. In the past five years there have been nearly one thousand fires started by juveniles causing 53 civilian injuries, 40 firefighter injuries and \$9.5 million in damages." He added, "Just last month, two Holyoke children died and another was injured when small children were playing with lighters in a bedroom."

### Conference Fosters Multi-Agency Collaboration

This conference provided a unique opportunity for mental health, fire services, burn care, schools, social service and juvenile justice professionals to receive the most up-to-date information and best practice models for multi-disciplinary collaboration in responding to problem

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

## Juvenile Firesetting Conference

Continued from Page 15

firesetting behavior. Attendees spent the day hearing from keynote speakers and participating in workshops that focused on various aspects of this national public safety issue.

Timothy M. Callahan, Executive

Director of the Brandon School said of the conference, "It's critical to have all the agencies that need to work on the serious problem of juvenile firesetting come together." He added, "I want to applaud the dedication of the leaders and representa-

tives from fire services, the district attorney's office, state police, social services, youth services, mental health, public schools, burn care and the state's early education agency that work together to address this critical issue."



Fire Marshal Coan, Worc. Fire Chief Dio, Tim Callahan (l-r)

### Workshops

The main objective of the conference was to bring together all of the different disciplines involved in preventing, responding to, and treating juvenile firesetting behaviors. One of the highlights of the conference was an expert panel discussion on community-based intervention networks featuring Paul Schwartzman of Fairport Counseling in New York, Marion Doctor of Children's Hospital in Colorado, Don Porth of SOS Fires Intervention in Oregon and MA State Police Sgt. Paul Zipper, Ph.D.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

## Women in the Fire Service

**A**n April 2008 study, *A National Report Card on Women in Firefighting*, found that fewer than 4% of U.S. firefighters are women but that women account for 17% of the workforce in professions that require similar strength, stamina, and dexterity, or involving outdoor, dirty or dangerous work. They looked at 184 occupations such as bus mechanics, drywall installers, enlisted military personnel, highway maintenance workers, loggers, professional athletes, refuse collectors, roofers, septic tank servicers, tire builders, and welders. The study's findings were presented at the International Association of Women in Fire and Emergency Services meeting, in Phoenix.

The study also found that half of all female firefighter candidates pass the physical ability tests.

One of the striking findings of the study was the large number of fire departments that had zero or very few women firefighters. Fifty-one per

cent of paid fire departments have never hired a female firefighter and the New York City Fire Department has fewer than 0.25 percent women firefighters, the study says.



Photo by: Barry Hyvarinen

In addition, the research team analyzed surveys from 675 firefighters from 114 departments in 48 states and interviewed 175 female firefighters in depth.

The researchers found that women firefighters are simply not being hired. When women are hired, the study found that 85% say that they were treated differently; 80% say they were issued ill-fitting equipment, 37% report that their gender

creates barriers to career advancement; 50% feel shunned or socially isolated; and 37% are verbally harassed.

The study makes several recommendations for fire service leaders to effect positive change and present *Five Elements of a Strategy for Culture Change*.

Copies of the study can be found at the International Association of Women in Fire and Emergency Services website at: [www.i-women.org/](http://www.i-women.org/)

The study was authored by Denise M. Hulett, Legal Aid Society Employment Law Center, San Francisco, CA; Marc Bendick, Jr. Bendick and Egan Economic Consultant, Inc., Washington, DC; Sheila Y. Thomas, Law Offices of Sheila Y. Thomas, Oakland, CA; and Francine Moccio, Institute for Women and Work. School of Industrial and Labor Relations (ILR), Cornell University, New York, NY. ♦



## Juv. Firesetting Conf.

Continued from Page 15

There were eight workshops presented at the conference:

- Is She Cinderella or Medusa? Adolescent Female Firesetting
- Taking a Firesetting History from a Clinical Perspective
- Puppets, Tools & Toys: Fire Education for Latency Youth
- Identifying, Examining & Responding to Juvenile Bomb-makers
- Bullies, Victims, Firesetting & JFSI Programs as Community Activist
- Pulling Rabbits Out of Hats: Complex Cases and Creative Interventions
- The Firesetting Intervention Triangle
- How the Courts Can Help

Presenters included:

- Jessica Gotthold, Sr. Special Agent, CFI, CES, federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives;
- Paul Schwartzman, MS, LMHC, DAPA, Fairport Counseling, NY;
- Marion Doctor, LCSW, The Children's Hospital, Denver, CO;
- Don Porth, SOS Fires Intervention Programs, Damascus, OR;
- David Wilcox, Middlesex Juvenile Court Clinic;
- Teresa M. Plante, M.S., Probation Officer, Norfolk Juvenile Probation Department;
- Tom Malone, Regional Counsel with the Massachusetts Department of Social Services;
- Sgt. Paul Zipper, Ph.D., Mass. State Police in the Office of the State Fire Marshal;
- Robert Stadolnik, Ed.D, FirePsych, Inc. and Brandon School;
- Theresa Manela, LIC-SW, FirePsych, Inc.;
- Victor Zamaloff, CFI, JFSIS, Operations K.I.D.S., Poughkeepsie, NY;
- Liz Maestranzi, LCSW, Assistant Coordinator of Case Management, Brandon School; and
- Representatives from the Office of Worcester District Attorney Joseph D. Early Jr., and the Office of Norfolk District Attorney William R. Keating.

For information on juvenile firesetting, visit the state Department of Fire Services website at [www.mass.gov.dfs](http://www.mass.gov.dfs). For more information about the conference please visit [www.brandonschool.org](http://www.brandonschool.org) ♦

## Campus Firewatch

Continued from Page 13

about fire safety and for fire professionals to also learn about the student perspective on this problem. Students will learn more about fire safety and write articles from their perspective, it will provide an opportunity for journalism students to get published and develop content for Campus Firewatch from a student's perspective on the fire safety problem.

A panel of judges will review the submissions and select the best ones to appear each month.

The topics that the students can write about are wide-ranging as long as it relates to campus fire safety. Some of the suggested topics include:

- Fire safety, why students don't seem to care
- The challenges of finding a fire-safe house off-campus
- How to reach today's millennial students about fire safety
- Providing fire safety to disabled students

- What should students know about fire safety, on-campus, off-campus and on vacation
- What is fire, how does it start, grow and spread
- What does fire do to me?
- Why are students disabling the smoke alarms
- Creative educational approaches to fire safety

There are many sources that students can use in writing the article, particularly on Campus Firewatch's Media Page, which has a list of spokespeople that the students can draw upon for interviews. There is also a number of resources on the CFW RESOURCE page, including a constantly updated Information Sheet on fatal campus fires, questions that parents can ask, map of fatal fires and much more. There are additional sources available online. Full rules and guidelines for the Campus Fire-

watch Media Project can be found on the Campus Firewatch website.

Please help by spreading the word to colleges, universities and high schools in your community – let's make this an outstanding success!

*Ed Comeau is the publisher of Campus Firewatch, an electronic newsletter based in Belchertown, Massachusetts, that has been in publication since 2000. He can be reached at 413-323-6002 or [ecomeau@campus-firewatch.com](mailto:ecomeau@campus-firewatch.com).* ♦

Editor's Note: The Campus FireWatch is not affiliated with the Center for Campus Fire Safety. They can be found online at [www.campusfiresafety.org](http://www.campusfiresafety.org).

# Campus Firewatch Media Project

[www.campus-firewatch.com](http://www.campus-firewatch.com)

# CODE COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT

## Temporary Housing at Traveling Carnivals

On June 1, 2008, State Fire Marshal Coan and Department of Public Safety Commissioner Gatzunis sent the following joint advisory about temporary housing at traveling carnivals to licensing officials, local building inspectors, and heads of fire departments.

“During recent inspections conducted of traveling carnivals, the Department of Public Safety (DPS) and the Department of Fire Services (DFS) have become aware of potentially serious safety issues regarding the use of makeshift box trailers at these shows. Specifically, some of the amusement operators are housing their workers, on site, in retrofitted box trailers. These box trailers are typically hidden within the perimeter of the carnival’s rides and games and are being used for various purposes, including makeshift cafeterias and worker housing. In many cases, the condition of these trailers presents a serious life safety hazard. The interiors of these box trailers are typically modified so that there is a narrow (2½ feet wide) hallway with several small bedrooms, partitioned by particleboard, located off the hallway. In the event of a fire or other emergency, there is inadequate ingress/egress.

Further, the location of these trailers significantly hinders the ability of the fire department to access these trailers, as there are often rides, games, and other equipment obstructing the trailers from fire department apparatus. Should a fire or other emergency develop in one of these trailers or in this area, there could be serious consequences. There is potential for multiple fatalities and injuries.

Due to this situation, we are advising that any city or town issuing a permit pursuant to M.G.L. c. 140, § 181 include a condition, which **prohibits** sleeping in box trailers on the grounds. If the city or town wishes

to allow these trailers, such trailers should be inspected and meet minimum fire, building, and sanitary code requirements.”

Fire prevention officers might recall the carnival in Chelsea in 2006 where deplorable living conditions were discovered – exits that led to a 3-foot drop, lack of working smoke alarms, circuits overloaded with appliances for cooking, to name a few. A carnival in western MA recently moved its workforce housing over the border into NY state so they would not have to comply with MA regulations. ♦



## Flexible Coupling/Shaft Failures – Stationary Fire Pump Installations

State Fire Marshal Coan and Department of Public Safety Commissioner Gatzunis sent the following joint advisory to heads of fire departments and building officials on June 1, 2008.

“The State Fire Marshal’s Office and the Department of Public Safety have been made aware of a concern with flexible couplings used in stationary fire pump installations installed under the 6th edition of the Massachusetts State Building Code, or earlier editions of the Building Code. The flexible coupling connecting the driver to the pump may catastrophically fail. This failure will immediately separate the fire pump from the driver, resulting in a facility that is left without any protection, and leaving firefighters and building occupants at risk.

If you have such a stationary fire pump installation in your jurisdiction, please be aware that property owners are required to inspect, test, and maintain their pumps in accordance with NFPA 25 (weekly run, annual flow, annual alignment). Given that flexible couplings have demonstrated failure, a mechanical

guard should be installed around the coupling before any testing is performed. Any issues with existing flexible couplings will likely be discovered through routine inspection, testing, and maintenance. This issue will not be discovered if pumps are allowed to go untested. Fire protection system maintenance is required by the State Building Code’s reference to NFPA 25 and per 527 CMR: 1.06(2). History indicates that the flexible coupling issue is of greater concern for diesel engine driven fire pumps due to the increased difficulty in aligning shafts and due to greater variance in run speeds.

The flexible coupling concerns raised in this advisory are the result of an actual failure of a coupling in a pre-manufactured pump house (pump, driver, controller sold together in an enclosure/skid). This particular failure occurred three times on the same pump. Subsequent to the multiple failures, it was discovered that no flexible couplings are available that have been tested and listed by an independent nationally recognized testing laboratory

CONTINUED ON **PAGE 18**



## Tank Truck Approval Permits Expire August 31, 2008

**O**n August 31, 2008, the current Fire Marshal Tank Truck Approval Permits (red decals) will expire. 527 CMR 8.04(1) specifies the Marshal shall approve any tank used for the transportation of combustible liquids, this inspection has been delegated, in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 148, to the local head of the fire department/fire district.

The Department of Fire Services has sent local fire departments a supply of August '10 (2010) Tank Truck Approval Permits (green decals), a copy of form FP-44 (Application/Permit), form FP-44E (Certificate of Exemption) and a generic *Cargo Tank Inspection* form. The FP-44 and FP-44E must be reproduced to accommodate the number of permits/exemptions needed by your department.

The checklist DFS sent entitled *Cargo Tank Inspection and Transfer Tank Inspection*, is in no way intended to summarize the entire regulation. Please refer to 527 CMR 8.00.

If you have any questions please call the Code Compliance & Enforcement Unit at 978-567-3375 or in western Massachusetts 413-587-3181. ♦

## Non-Commercial Bio-Fuel Production

The Department of Public Safety and the Department of Fire Services are receiving an increasing number of inquiries from fire departments concerning the production of bio-fuels, sometime referred to as bio-diesel in non-commercial settings. These inquiries typically involve bio-fuel production in single-family residences.

Bio-fuel production generally involves the use of combustible liquids such as waste cooking oil (feedstock). A flammable liquid such as methanol is combined with the feedstock and a strong alkali (lye). These materials then go through a process, which includes heating, with the end result being bio-fuel.

A number of regulations are applicable to these operations.

A number of communities restrict or prohibit these activities in residential areas through locally adopted zoning regulations.

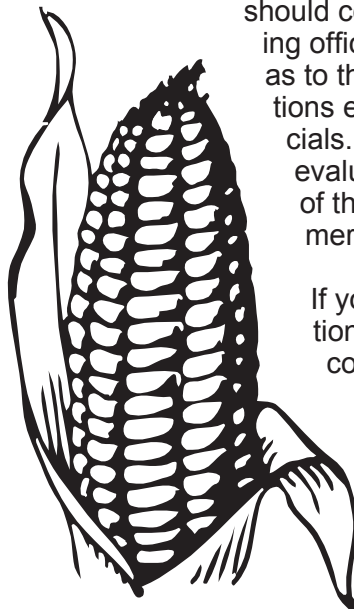
The State Building Code (780 CMR) contains specific provisions related to the use of any building or structure for the storage and or production of hazardous substances. In

some situations, the production and storage of bio-fuel may change a buildings use group classification to High Hazard.

The State Fire Code (527 CMR 9 & 14) contains specific permitting, handling, and storage requirements for the storage and use of flammable and combustible liquids.

Prior to granting permits for bio-fuel production, the fire department should consult with the local zoning official, and building official as to the applicability of regulations enforced by those officials. Fire officials should also evaluate the appropriateness of this activity in a non-commercial setting.

If you need further information or assistance, please contact the Code Compliance & Enforcement Unit at 978-567-3375 or in western Massachusetts at 413-587-3181. ♦



**Code Compliance & Enforcement Unit:  
978-567-3375**

**western Massachusetts:  
413-587-3181**

## Firepump Installations

*Continued from Page 18*

(prior to January 2008). As of today, there are still no flexible couplings or shafts listed for such use when the pump is driven by a diesel engine. Furthermore, reported failures of fire pump components that connect the engine to a vertical fire pump have led to a requirement in the latest edition of NFPA 20 where the pump manufacturer must evaluate the entire system as a package for potential torsion failures. The 7th Edition

Basic Building Code, which is about to be issued, will reference the latest edition of NFPA 20 and, as a matter of due diligence, it is recommended on new installations that the requirement for the torsion analysis be complied with and followed to ensure viable driver-to-pump coupling performance.

If anyone encounters failure of this coupling, please contact Dana

Haagensen, Fire Protection Engineer for the Office of the State Fire Marshal, directly at 978-567-3376 so that this data can be tracked.

If anyone requires additional information, please contact either the Department of Fire Services or the Department of Public Safety staff." ♦

# Major Changes to 527 CMR 9 – Above & Underground Storage Tanks

In April, the Department of Fire Services sent a new copy of 527 CMR 9, relative to tanks and containers to local fire departments because the Board of Fire Prevention Regulations (BFPR) has made significant revisions to this regulation. Questions regarding this regulation may be directed to the Code Compliance & Enforcement Unit at 978-567-3375 or in western Massachusetts at 413-587-3181.

## Training on Changes

In an effort to inform owners, operators, and third party inspectors of underground storage tanks, as well as fire departments of the changes, the Department of Fire Services held 16 free informational sessions throughout the state.

## A Guide to Recent Changes to 527 CMR 9 Tanks and Containers

The Department of Fire Services, Office of the State Fire Marshal has developed a guide to highlight the recent changes to 527 CMR 9. The changes affect both the aboveground storage tanks (AST) and underground storage tanks (UST). This document was developed as a convenience to those interested parties and does not contain a complete description of all code changes.

The BFPR has promulgated a number of changes to 527 CMR 9, many of which are a direct result of the Federal Energy Act of 2005. Additional changes were made to remove outdated provisions and update definitions and referenced standards.

## Highlighted changes by section:

### Purpose and Scope:

- Additional language was added clarifying the relationship between the State Building Code (780 CMR) and 527 CMR 9 as it relates to aboveground storage tanks.

### Definitions:

- A number of definitions were revised to provide consistency throughout the body of the code.
- Obsolete definitions have been eliminated.
- The CMR has been revised to be consistent with other regulatory and statutory changes.
- New definitions were added for new subject matter.

### Aboveground Storage Tanks (over 10,000 gallons of combustible liquids):

- Referenced standard has been changed to NFPA 30-2003.

### Aboveground Storage Tanks (10,000 gallons or less of Class I liquids):

- Most of this section has been eliminated. Tanks must now meet the requirements of NFPA 30-2003 or NFPA 30A-2003 for tanks at fuel dispensing locations.
- The head of the fire department is permitted to accept the installation provisions of NFPA 395 at farms and other isolated locations.

### Underground Storage Tanks:

- All new, replacement, and substantially modified dispensers will be equipped with a dispenser sump, which shall be continually monitored for product loss. (*Exception:* This requirement shall not apply to the replacement or repair of the product dispenser due to damage or malfunction.)
- All new or replacement tanks utilizing a submersible pump shall be equipped with a sump. All sumps shall be continuously monitored for product loss.
- Tanks, piping, and dispensers must be installed by a person certified in writing by the equipment manufacturer or petroleum equipment association as being qualified.
- All single wall steel tanks shall be removed from the ground by August 7, 2017.

- *Exceptions:* This does not apply to consumptive use only tanks nor to those tanks that were relined prior to August 8, 2007 in accordance with A.P.I. 1631, 1983 Edition, if the following conditions have been met: a.) A proper permit and approval was issued by the head of the fire department for such relining, and b.) A legally valid warranty exists for said relining.
- The relining of tanks is prohibited.
- Permits to maintain existing underground tanks are issued or renewed contingent upon completion and receipt of third party inspections.
- Adoption of specific requirements for prohibiting delivery to any underground storage tank by the Marshal or head of the fire department.
- Establishes a third party inspection program. Sets minimum inspector qualifications and establishes inspection requirements. **Owners, including state, municipal, and federal facilities** containing underground storage tanks will be required, at their own expense, to have their tanks inspected by a third party inspector once every three years. **Deadline for completing the third party inspection is August 2010.** Inspection reports are provided to head of the fire department and the Marshal.
- Form FP-290 has been revised. Aboveground Storage Tanks will no longer be reported on the form. **Forms will now be sent directly by the tank owner to the fire department and the Marshal (fire department sign off is not required).**
- Additional information on financial responsibility is required. A new FP-290 will be required only when any of the information on the form has changed.

## Revised AST and UST Forms

As a result of some of the recent changes to 527 CMR 9, this office has revised the FP-290 series of forms. The following information

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20



## Major Changes - 527 CMR 9

Continued from Page 19

highlights the changes to the procedure and forms.

**Fire departments will no longer be required to sign off on the FP-290 or FP-290R** (registration or removal forms). The fire department is still required to sign the permit form. The facility owner/operator is responsible for filing a copy of these forms with both the fire department and the Department of Fire Services. Aboveground storage tanks will no longer be reported on the FP-290 or FP-290R.

### **Form FP-290 Underground Storage Tank Registration Form**

Section VII- Requires more detailed information on financial responsibility.

Section VII- This section now requires yes or no answers. The op-

tion to answer "unknown" has been deleted.

### **Form FP-290R Notification of Removal of Underground Storage Tank**

Formatting changes.

### **Form FP-290 Part 3 Permit to Maintain New or Existing Underground Storage Tank**

Permit issuance and renewal now contingent upon a passing third party inspection.

Copies of the revised forms were mailed to local fire departments and are also available on the department's web site. [www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs), click on *Fire Prevention* and *OSFM Forms*. ♦

## Replacement Batteries for Certain Smoke Detectors

BRK and First Alert issued a notice in February, 2007 regarding an issue around certain hard-wired smoke detectors and the type of battery used for replacement.

This notice is from the manufacturer and clearly identifies an issue when using Duracell batteries in the unit instead of the same battery type that was supplied by the manufacturer. At this time, there is not a recall on the product. This information is provided as guidance, in the event you encounter this issue.

Further assistance is always available through the Office of the State Fire Marshal on this and similar issues. Please contact the Code Compliance and Enforcement Unit at 978-567-3375 or in western Massachusetts at 413-587-3181. ♦

## New Regulation on Excavation & Trench Safety

The state Department of Public Safety and the Department of Labor, Division of Occupational Safety has issued a new regulation, 520 CMR 14.00, on excavation & trench safety regulation

There are two major new requirements under this regulation.

1) To prevent an injury or fatality to a member of the public, trenches cannot be left unattended. All trenches that fall under the regulation must be:

-Attended, or

-Backfilled, or

-Barricaded with fences at least 6' high with no openings greater than 4", or

-Covered with roadplates at least 3/4" thick.

2) A new permit process is required by the regulation.

-All excavators must obtain a permit prior to digging a trench (permits may be obtained after the fact for approved emergencies). The trench permit will require a certificate of insurance, dig safe number, contact information, location of trench, etc.

-All municipalities must designate a trench permitting authority, and develop a procedure to issue permits for trenches dug on both public and private property within their municipality. Municipalities may charge a reasonable fee to cover administrative costs of the permit process.

This regulation has been promulgated, but will not be enforced until January 1, 2009 to allow municipalities time to set up the permitting process.

Some municipalities may choose to have the fire chief or a fire official serve as the permitting authority.

For further information, go to [www.mass.gov/dps](http://www.mass.gov/dps), select "trenches" from the left-side menu. Or, feel free to contact Hilary Eustace at the MA Division of Occupational Safety at 617-969-7177, ext. 333. For training information on technical rescue, please contact Mark McCabe at the DFS training division at 978-567-3214. ♦

## One- and Two-Family Home Plan Review

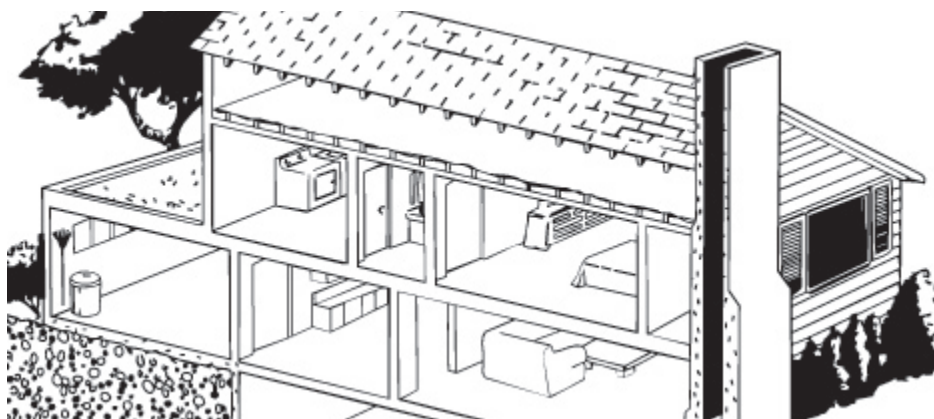
The much awaited 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the one- and two-family building code became mandated on January 1 of this year. As some may already know, the Massachusetts State Building Code now consists of two separate codes under the same regulation number: the *Commonwealth of Massachusetts Building Code for One- and Two-Family Dwellings*, consisting primarily of chapters 51 through 99 of 780 CMR, and the “Base” *Commonwealth of Massachusetts State Building Code* for multi-family and commercial structures, consisting primarily of chapters 1 through 50 of 780 CMR.

One concern of fire prevention offices in the Commonwealth has been a lack of plan submittal for fire department review for one- and two-family homes. The 7<sup>th</sup> edition for one- and two-family structures requires that the fire department receive plans from the building official for review and comment on fire protection systems. The relevant excerpt from Section 5110.7 of 780 CMR is unofficially copied below:

“When such application for permit includes fire protection systems or portions thereof, the building official shall cause one set of construction documents filed pursuant to 780 CMR 5110.7 to be transmitted simultaneously to the head of the local fire department for his file, review and approval of the fire protection system items specified in 780 CMR 5313 and/or 780 CMR 93.00 as ap-

plicable. The head of the local fire department shall within ten working days from the date of receipt, approve or disapprove such construction documents. If the head of the local fire department disapproves such construction documents, he or she shall notify the building official (refer to M.G.L. c. 148, § 28A) in writing citing the relevant sections of noncompliance with 780 CMR or the sections of the referenced standards of Appendix A. Upon the request of the head of the local fire department, the building official may grant one or more extensions of time for such review provided, however, that the total review by said head of the local fire department shall not exceed 30 calendar days (the same concurrent 30-day period afforded building department review). If such approval, disapproval or request for extension of time is not received by the building official within said ten working days, the building official may deem the fire protection construction documents implicitly approved by the head of the local fire department.”

*How to contact an OSFM Fire Protection Engineer:* if your jurisdiction contains, or is South of, the Mass Pike - contact Jake Nunnemacher at 978-567-3377 or [jacob.nunnemacher@dfs.state.ma.us](mailto:jacob.nunnemacher@dfs.state.ma.us). For jurisdictions North of the Mass Pike - contact Dana Haagensen at 978-567-3376 or [dana.haagensen@dfs.state.ma.us](mailto:dana.haagensen@dfs.state.ma.us). ♦



## 39 Graduate Advanced Fire Investigation

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan and Massachusetts Firefighting Academy Director Edmund Walker are pleased to announce the graduation of 39 members of the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy's six-day Advanced Fire Investigation course on Wednesday, May 28, 2008. This rigorous professional training provides fire, and state and local police officers with the advanced skills to accurately determine the origin and cause of fires in their jurisdictions and together, build solid, prosecutable cases. The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy, a division of the Department of Fire Services, offers this program, tuition-free.

### **39 Graduates: 35 Firefighters, 3 Police Officers, & 1 Federal Officer**

The 39 graduates, including three local police officers, one federal officer and 35 firefighters, represent the following agencies: the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; the Auburn, Methuen, Pembroke and Somerville Police Departments; the Amherst, Ashburnham, Billerica, Charlton, Chesterfield, Chicopee, Concord, Dartmouth Dist.3, Marblehead, Maynard, Medford, Methuen, Middleboro, Needham, Newburyport, Newton, North Andover, Northampton, Northborough, Pembroke, Pittsfield, Plymouth, Revere, Somerset, Somerville, Dept., Southbridge, Waltham, West Barnstable, Westport, Woburn, and Worcester Fire Departments.

Massachusetts Firefighting Academy Director Edmund M. Walker said, “This course provides students with fire scene experience from investigation through courtroom testimony. They are exposed to the investigatory process as outlined in the National Fire Protection Association Standard 921: Guide for Fire and Explosion Investigations.” ♦



## MFIRS V5 Coding Tips

### **Summertime Means BBQs and Fireworks**

#### **Fireworks**

If there is a fireworks explosion with no fire, code the Incident Type as 243 – Fireworks explosion (no fire).

Any casualty under this incident type would be classified as an EMS Casualty and not a Civilian Fire Casualty.

If fireworks ignite a fire, code the fire as the type of fire it is and code Heat Source = 54 – Fireworks in the Fire Module.

If the fireworks ignited more fireworks, code Item First Ignited = 88 – Pyrotechnics in the Fire Module.

If fireworks are stored at the site of the incident, code On-Site Materials = 934 – Fireworks, commercially made on the Fire Module.

#### **Gas Grills**

If the fire is contained to the grill, code the Incident Type as 162 – Outside Equipment Fire.

If the grill started a fire, code the fire as the type of fire it is. On the Fire Module, Equipment Involved in Ignition should be 643 – Grill, hibachi, barbecue.

Select the appropriate code for Equipment Power Source:

11 or 12 – Electrical Line Voltage;

22 – LP Gas or Other Heavier Than Air Gas;

42 – Coal, charcoal. ♦

## Cigarette Fires

If a department has a fire that was started by a cigarette, the new FSC Cigarette Fire Checklist (Form FP-38) should also be completed. This is in addition to the MFIRS report. Electronic versions can be found on the DFS website at: <http://www.mass.gov/dfs>, click on *Fire Prevention* and *OSFM Forms*. Just fax, email or mail the completed form to the Fire Data Unit in Stow. ♦



## Upcoming MFIRS Classes

Two MFIRS classes have been scheduled for this fall.

Wednesday, September 10, 2008  
at DFS in Stow, MA  
from 09:00 – 13:00.  
Course # 200000613 Session A.

Tuesday, November 04, 2008  
at Springfield Training Academy in  
Springfield, MA from 09:30 – 13:00.  
Course # 200000613 Session B.

Please use standard MFA registration forms and procedures. ♦

## Update Reports After Investigation

Departments should submit updated MFIRS reports once the investigation is completed. Department Standard Operating Guidelines should dictate whether the fire investigator, the chief, deputy chief, or officer in command is allowed to do this. The MFIRS report needs to be updated and then re-submitted (the next time the incident reports are submitted) whenever new information is discovered or an investigation is completed. This should be done even if the fire investigators are using a system other than MFIRS for their investigative reports. This is especially true for fatal or large loss fires.

### **Fatal or Large Loss Fires**

If there is a fire or explosion with a fatality or large loss (>\$1,000,000), please forward a paper copy of the MFIRS report with a completed Remarks section to Derryl Dion within two business days. The report should include the Basic, Fire, Civilian Fire &/or Fire Service Casualty Module(s), and Structure Fire Mod-

ule (needed for all structure fires). This most likely will be a preliminary report and the completed report can be filed at a later date unless otherwise noted. Every effort should be taken to make sure that these reports are as complete as they can be given all of the information available at the end of the investigation.

If one of the state troopers from the Office of the State Fire Marshal's Fire Investigation Unit (FIU) was involved with the investigation, please contact them periodically to see what they are reporting as their conclusions in their report. FIU reports are separate from fire department MFIRS reports, and using the team concept both reports should reflect the same conclusions.

### **MFIRS Assistance**

Please contact Derryl Dion, Research Analyst at 978-567-3382 or [Derryl.Dion@state.ma.us](mailto:Derryl.Dion@state.ma.us) with any questions regarding MFIRS or to conduct fire data or histories research. The email address to send your electronic MFIRS reports to is: [MFIRS.Report@state.ma.us](mailto:MFIRS.Report@state.ma.us). ♦

**MFIRS**  
Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting Systems

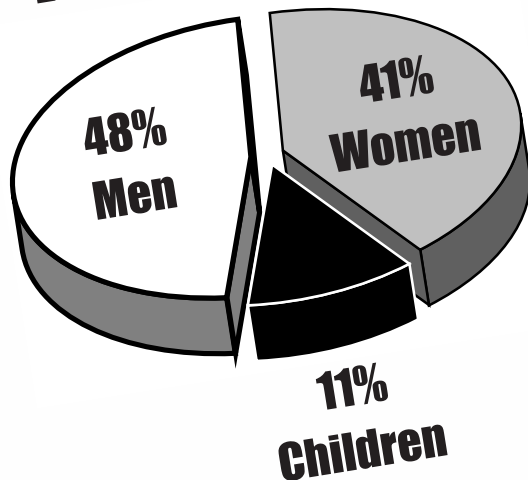
## 2007 Fire Statistics – A Sneak Peek

According to the 2007 Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System (MFIRS) data, there were 33,522 reported fires. The 16,722 structure fires, 3,317 motor vehicle fires and 13,483 outside and other fires caused 61 civilian deaths, 3 fire service deaths, 394 civilian injuries, 675 fire service injuries and an estimated \$287 million in property damages. This is an 11% increase from the 30,324 fires reported to MFIRS in 2006.

In 2007 48 fatal fires killed 61 civilians: 29 men, 25 women and seven children. Three firefighters died in a fire in 2007. The 61 civilian deaths are increased 39% from the record low of 44 civilian fire deaths in 2006. Smoking was once again the leading cause of fatal residential structure fires and residential structure fire deaths. Smoking caused 45% of fatal residential fires and 43% of residential fire deaths.

For more information or a copy of our downloadable 2007 Fire Fact Sheet click on: [www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs) and look under *Publications and Reports*. ♦

## Civilian Fire Deaths



# CPSC

The following are excerpts from press releases issued by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) regarding products recalled for fire or burn hazards. Consumers should immediately stop using any of these products and contact the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission or the manufacturer for instructions on how to proceed. The web address is: [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov)

## AIR COMPRESSORS

08-210 ..... 3/6/08

### Strike Force Portable Air Compressors

*Advance Stores, Co. d/b/a Advance Auto Parts*

The compressor's motor can overheat & ignite the protective cover. Also, the cover may not prevent internal components from being touched, which poses an electrical shock hazard.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml08/08210.html>



## BABY BOTTLE & FOOD WARMERS

08-263 ..... 5/8/08

### Deluxe Bottle & Food Warmers

*Munchkin Inc.*

The bottle & food warmers can overheat.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml08/08263.html>

## CANDLE HOLDERS

08-209 ..... 3/6/08

### Silver Square Tealight Candle Holder

*Pier 1 Imports*

The spacing of the holes in a concentrated

pattern allows the holders to heat up. This can cause the tealights to burn unexpectedly fast and with a higher flame height than normal.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml08/08209.html>

08-240 ..... 4/3/08

### Holiday Times Candleholders

*Wal-Mart Stores Inc.*

The candle holders can tip over, posing a fire hazard.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml08/08240.html>

08-274 ..... 5/20/08

### Candle Holders

*The Home Depot*

Sunlight passing through the glass portion can cause nearby flammable material to ignite.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml08/08274.html>

## CIRCUIT BREAKERS

08-286 ..... 5/27/08

Counterfeit Circuit Breakers labeled as "Square D" Specialty Lamp International Inc.

They are counterfeit and can fail to trip when they are overloaded.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml08/08286.html>

## CO & CO/SMOKE DETECTORS

08-267 ..... 5/15/08

### FireX Branded 10000 Series CO Alarms & 12000 Series CO/Smoke Combo Alarms

*Maple Chase Company*

The recalled alarms can sound a "double chirp" fault alarm in the presence of CO, prior to going into full alarm. The Owner's Manual tells owners to take the alarm out of service when they hear the "double chirp", which could expose consumers to hazardous levels of CO.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml08/08267.html>

CONTINUED ON **PAGE 24**



## CPSC Recalls

Continued from Page 23

### DECK CLEANER

08-237 ..... 4/2/08

#### Cabot Composite Deck Cleaner

*Cabot Stains*

One of the components of the composite cleaner can react with metal foil residue on the packaging, releasing heat and chlorine gas.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml08/08237.html>

### DEEP FRYERS

08-216 ..... 3/11/08

#### Cooks Deep Fryers

*JC Penny*

The deep fryer has a faulty heating element which can cause it to overheat.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml08/08216.html>



### FUEL CELLS

08-269 ..... 5/15/08

#### "Tall Red" Fuel Cells

*Paslode*

The fuel cells used to power cordless framing nailers can leak fuel.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml08/08269.html>

### GAS CONNECTORS

08-205 ..... 3/4/08

#### LDR 1200 Series Gas Connectors

*LDR Industries Inc.*

The gas connectors can leak propane or natural gas.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml08/08205.html>

### GAS GRILLS

08-261 ..... 5/5/08

#### Broil Kind Gas Grill

*Onward Manufacturing Co.*

The bottom of the cook box that contains the burners can melt or crack as a result of a grease fire.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml08/08261.html>

### GAS VALVES

08-277 ..... 5/21/08



#### Fireplace Gas Valves

*American Flame Inc.*

Gas can continue to flow into the fireplace light area after the switch has been turned "OFF".

[NOTE: These products are not approved for us in MA.]

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml08/08277.html>

### GAS WATER HEATERS

08-241 ..... 4/3/08

#### Natural & Propane Gas Water Heaters

*A.O. Smith Water Products Co.*

The water heater's flue gas temperatures can exceed safe limits & produce excessive temperatures in the venting unit. Also the water heater's exhaust can leak into the surrounding room, posing a carbon monoxide hazard.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml08/08241.html>

### HOT TUBS

08-235 ..... 4/1/08

#### Serenity Spa Hot Tubs

*Gecko Alliance*

The hot tub's spa control can overheat.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml08/08235.html>

### SIMMER POTS

08-255 ..... 4/24/08

#### Electric Simmer Pots

*Waxcessories Inc.*

The simmer pots have wire connections that can become loose, posing a fire and shock hazard.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml08/08255.html>

### SWITCHES

08-218 ..... 3/12/08

#### Ensto Control Oy Toggle & Rotary Switches

*Ensto Control Oy*

When switched "OFF", one electrical pole may remain energized, posing a shock risk.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml08/08218.html>

### TOASTERS

08-212 ..... 3/6/08

#### Hamilton Beach Toasters

*Hamilton Beach Brands Inc.*

The toasters can remain "on" after popping up, & can ignite flammable items covering or coming into contact with the toaster.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml08/08212.html>



08-227 ..... 3/19/08

#### Electric Toasters

*Salton, Inc.*

The toaster can turn on without bread in the slots & ignite items placed on top of it.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml08/08227.html> ♦

# LICENSING EXAMS

The Office of the State Fire Marshal issues licenses to people and companies engaged in fireworks, blasting, explosives, cannon and mortar firing, special effects, special hazard systems and portable fire extinguishers. Information on applications, exam dates, to obtain new licenses, or to renew existing licenses may be obtained by calling 978-567-3700. Examinations for licenses are held quarterly. Filing deadlines, exam locations, dates and times can be found online at: [http://www.mass.gov/dfs/osfm/license\\_exams.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dfs/osfm/license_exams.htm).

All license exams are offered at both Department of Fire Services locations: State Road in Stow, MA and One Prince Street (Northampton State Hospital) in Northampton, MA. Due to construction at DFS Stow, parking is severely limited and may include off-site parking. Please ride-share with co-workers whenever possible.

Applicants must be pre-registered for all license exams, no walk-ins permitted. Completed applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. on the deadline date listed below. If an

application is received after the applicable deadline, the applicant will not be allowed to sit for the exam.

Directions to our offices are listed on the web at:

[http://www.mass.gov/dfs/about\\_dfs/dfsmap.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dfs/about_dfs/dfsmap.htm)

A list of study materials for each examination are listed on the web at:

[http://www.mass.gov/dfs/osfm/license\\_exams.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dfs/osfm/license_exams.htm)

All exams begin promptly at 9:00 a.m.

## 2008 License Examination Schedule

Examinations	Examination Dates	Application Deadlines
Fire Extinguishers	January 24, 2008 April 30, 2008 July 23, 2008 October 29, 2008	January 11, 2008 April 18, 2008 July 11, 2008 October 17, 2008
Cannon/Mortar, Fireworks, Special Effects, Blasting, Blasting R&D	February 20, 2008 May 14, 2008 August 13, 2008 November 5, 2008	February 8, 2008 May 2, 2008 August 1, 2008 October 24, 2008

## Status Report of Compliance and Enforcement Actions

The following is a status report of recent compliance and enforcement actions taken by the Office of the State Fire Marshal against individuals or companies for violations of MGL Chap. 148 and 527 CMR. The status of the action is provided and notation is made

regarding the effective date of the action. While other actions may be pending, only those individuals or companies who have had administrative hearings with decisions rendered will be documented in this space.

Should there be any question regarding the status of any license or certificate, please call the Office of the State Fire Marshal at any time for verification. The Licensing Desk can be reached at 978-567-3700. ♦

### Compliance and Enforcement Actions by the Department of Fire Services

Name	Action Taken	Terms	Ends
<b>Fire Equipment Certificate of Competency</b>			
James Tecce	Permanent Revocation	Prohibited from ever again holding a business reg. of any kind from DFS	
<b>Fire Equipment Certificate of Registration</b>			
Intra-City Supply Co.	5-year suspension	1 yr. to serve, 4 yrs. probation	5/23/2008 5/12/2012



# GRADUATIONS

## Recruit Class #180 Graduates 72 Firefighters

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan and Massachusetts Firefighting Academy Director Edmund M. Walker, presented certificates of completion to members of the 180th Recruit Firefighter Training Class in a graduation ceremony on Friday, June 20, 2008 at the Nashoba Regional High School in Bolton, MA.

### **72 Graduates from 44 Fire Departments**

The 72 graduates, all men, represented the 44 departments of: Agawam, Andover, Auburn, Bedford, Beverly, Billerica, Brockton, Burlington, Charlton, Cohasset, Dennis, Dracut, Easthampton, Everett, Falmouth, Gloucester, Holyoke, Lakeville, Lexington, Longmeadow,

Ludlow, Mansfield, Methuen, Middleborough, North Andover, North Attleboro, Northbridge, Norton, Orleans, Peabody, Plymouth, Reading, Salem, Sandwich, Scituate, Sharon, Somerville, Sturbridge, Upton, Walpole, Wayland, Westfield, Westminster, Winchester, Winthrop, and Yarmouth. ♦



Photo by: Bruce Gauvin

## Firefighters Graduate Call/Volunteer Firefighter Training

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan presented certificates of completion to members of the Call/Volunteer Firefighter Training class #22 in a graduation ceremony at Palmer High School, Thorndike, MA.

### **26 Graduates from 15 Fire Departments**

The twenty-six graduates, twenty-three men and three women, represent the fifteen fire departments of: Bondsville, Brimfield, Granby,

Hadley, Hampden, Leverett, Longmeadow, Monson, Palmer, South Hadley Dist. 2, Southwick, Three Rivers, Ware, Westhampton, and Wilbraham. ♦

The *Call/Volunteer Firefighter Training* program is unique in that it delivers a standard recruit training curriculum, meeting national standards, on nights and weekends to accommodate the schedule of firefighters in suburban and rural areas. Bringing the training closer to the firefighters often means more firefighters can participate. This program was held at area fire department training facilities. The Fire Chiefs' Association of Massachusetts persuaded the Legislature to financially support this innovative delivery of off-site training.



Class #22

Photo by: Bruce Gauvin